COURTS

Florida's transgendered can't marry as new sex

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TAMPA, Fla. • Transgender people cannot marry as their new sexes under Florida law, a state appeals court ruled Friday in setting aside a divorce ruling between a man — who was a woman — and his wife.

The 2nd District Court of Appeal in Lakeland said people who undergo sex changes aren't recognized by their new genders under Florida's marriage laws, which ban same-sex marriage.

It is not known how many marriages the ruling affects because people are not required to prove gender when seeking a marriage license in Florida.

The ruling came in the case of Michael Kantaras, who underwent a sex change operation in 1987, and two years later married his wife, Linda.

His attorney, Karen Doering, called the court's decision "ridiculous."

Michael Kantaras divorced Linda Kantaras in 2002 and was awarded custody of two children.

The appeals court said there was no legal marriage to dissolve and remanded the custody aspect of the case for further proceedings.

Florida's Legislature needs to decide whether transgender people can marry, the court said. Until lawmakers recognize sex-reassignment procedures in marriage law, the court said, a person's sex at birth must determine whether a marriage is valid.

Doering said she will ask the appeals court to send the case to the Florida Supreme Court.

POLITICS

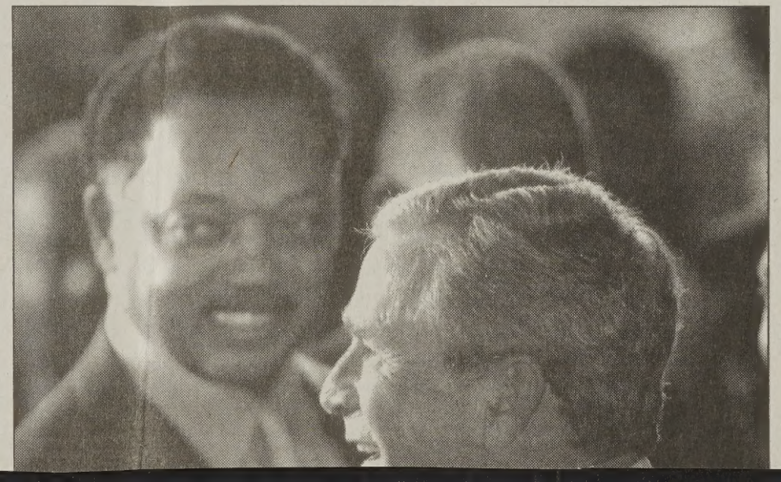
Bush seeks support from black voters

Urban League gives mixed reception

LOS ANGELES TIMES

DETROIT • Laying claim to "a solid record of accomplish-

rived. They applauded tepidly, if at all, however, when Bush uttered lines that unfailingly elicit roaring responses from parti-



Nader visits Boston, cries foul against Democrats

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BOSTON • Ralph Nader, the independent presidential candidate most Democrats would like to go away, arrived in the party's convention city Friday — and complained the party

off the ballot" and added that Kerry was "inviting a mini-Watergate if you do not put a stop to these actions."

Democrats have challenged the signatures the Nader campaign has provided to get on various state ballots,